

News From The Rock

February 2020

Solid Rock United Methodist Church • Warren, Indiana

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Bible Study

The February "Feasting on the Word" Bible studies are designed to point us in the direction of the Lenten season, beginning on February 26 (Ash Wednesday).

Some of the Solid Rock small groups will also have made their first gatherings for spiritual growth.

You are invited to make these Monday evening 7:00 p.m. "Feastings" as your small group enrichment. Three different leaders, as noted below, guide us in our various studies of scripture. We meet in the Solid Rock kitchen for about an hour to meditate on God's word to us. Below are the dates, scriptures and leaders for the coming month.

- February 3: Matthew 4:18-22 (Joe Haney, leader)
- February 10: Matthew 6:1-4 (Perry Spahr, leader)
- February 17: Luke 9:28-36 (Jorita Banter, leader)
- February 24: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (Joe Haney, leader)

Bring your Bible and an open heart to hear God's word to us!

Church Directory

Photographs for the new church directory will be taken on January 29 and 30 at the church. It's not too late to make your appointment! Those who are photographed by Universal Church Directories will receive a free 8x10 photo



and a copy of the directory. Call Jane Hitzfield at 375-3873 if you have questions or to make an appointment. You may also schedule online at ucdir.com (Church code: *in1641*; Password: *photos*).

Family Ministry Update

By John Pearson
Family Ministry Coordinator

The Little Rocks children's ministry enjoyed 19 kids during our Super Hero Night in January. Kids had fun dressing up as their favorite super hero, and viewing *Big Hero 6*. We will not be having a Kid's Night during the month of February, but will be doing something in March.

Rock Foundations 456 enjoyed 15 preteens during our kick-off party on January 4. Rock Solid Youth enjoyed 11 youth from Solid Rock during the WAY lock-in on January 3. There was a total of 19 youth at The WAY lock-in. We have been working through a series titled "Overcoming Temptations" during both youth groups. During both groups we have a special small group time where students have the opportunity to reflect and discuss 3-4 questions.

Solid Rock will be hosting The WAY on February 2 for a Big Game Party from 6:00-11:00 p.m. (or end of game).

The WAY has decided to allow preteens to attend this event. We will have a special message during halftime of the game. The students have been working on selling pizzas for the Super Bowl. Students are encouraged to stay after church on February 2 to help make the pizzas.

I hope to have the majority of our stu-
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from
Pastor Paul

As I sit here in my office looking out the window, the temperature outside is in the teens with a dusting of snow on the ground. It's on days like today when I think how nice it would have been to stay in bed wrapped in a warm blanket or to be sitting in front of a warm fireplace with a cup of hot chocolate. However, I realize that we can't always do what we want to do. In fact many times in our life we find ourselves dealing with climate changes (and I don't mean just the temperature) in our lives that we just don't want to face. We would rather be anywhere but where we are.

Every year, many of us resolve to do things differently in the coming year. We do so in hopes that maybe the coming year will be the year that we overcome some of the addictions and habits that have become a burden in our lives. Maybe you resolved to lose weight. Maybe you thought that it was time to lay off the chocolates or caffeine. Maybe you decided this was the year you were going to make amends with someone whom you have had a falling out with. One month into the new year, I can't help but wonder how many of you are struggling to keep those New Year's Resolutions that you set. We tend to make excuses and the climate might not always seem right for change. Many outside circumstances force us to alter our



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Our Vision: Sharing and experiencing the life-giving message of Jesus,
to restore wholeness and build an intentional community of hope, relationship, and purpose for everyone.

Solid Rock Small Group Opportunities

SUNDAY SMALL GROUPS (Sunday School)

Children's Classes

- PEBBLES (Nursery)
 - Ages 0-4
- LITTLE ROCKS/ROCK FOUNDATIONS
 - Preschool-Grade 4
- ROCK SOLID YOUTH
 - Grades 5-12

Adult Classes

- FIRM FOUNDATION
 - Currently studying "The Forgiveness

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Worship Schedule

Sunday School at 9:00
Worship at 10:00
at 485 Bennett Drive, Warren
Church Phone: 375-3871

Church Office

Office Phone: 375-3873
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday
9:00 a.m. - Noon

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News deadline for the March
newsletter: February 22

of Jesus" by Matt Williams

- FRIENDS IN FAITH
- REAL LIFE

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

- FEASTING ON THE WORD
 - Meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 in the church kitchen

SEASONAL SMALL GROUPS Winter 2020 Groups

- IN HIS IMAGE: 10 WAYS GOD CALL US TO REFLECT HIS CHARACTER
 - Online Group
- FROM THIS DAY FORWARD
 - Meets Sundays, 2:15-3:15 at Solid Rock
- HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A HEARSE PULLING A TRAILER?
 - Meets Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 at Solid Rock
- GLORY DAYS: LIVING YOUR PROMISED LAND LIFE NOW
 - Meets Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 at Heritage Pointe

For more information on small groups, call the church office, 375-3873.

GRAPEVINE/NINE COMPANION CLUSTER GROUP WORKCAMP TO HENDERSON SETTLEMENT

When: Sunday March 22, 2020 (Depart after church at Liberty Center) to Saturday March 28.

Where: Frakes, Kentucky (Laurel Fork Valley of Southeastern KY)

Cost: \$250 per person (covers on campus meals and housing for the week). The deadline for registration is February 22, 2020.

Purpose: Work camp at Henderson Settlement will serve two purposes. First and primarily, it serves as an opportunity to educate persons in mission and the needs that exist amongst the less fortunate in our society. Secondly, work camp often serves as the bridge between dreams and reality for families of the Laurel Fork Valley of southeastern Kentucky, while giving groups the opportunity to witness for Christ through home repair and various other work projects. Youth are welcome to join us on this mission trip.

Registration forms are located in the back of the sanctuary or in the church office. If you have any further questions please contact Pastor Paul.

Remnant House Thank You

Thank you for inviting us to give our testimonies and share how Jesus Christ has transformed our lives! Thank you for the donation, we appreciate your thoughtfulness so much! The Remnant Ministry requests sponsors for each lady their first 90 days at the House. Please pray for assistance in acquiring two 7-8 passenger vans. If you are interested in helping with any of the ministry projects at Remnant, please call Jessica Ralston-Brooks at 260-388-6020. God Bless!

The Remnant Ministry

December Financial Update

General Offerings	\$38,233
General Fund Expenses	\$26,769

In other words

We're so accustomed to hearing the Bible's "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words. What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from The Message Bible reveal to you?

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, does-



n't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, MSG).

- "A smile is the light in your window that tells others that there is a caring, sharing person inside." —Denis Waitley
- "Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you." —Anne Lamott

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commitments and so we struggle along doing the best we can.

As Christians, we have been called to present the Gospel message to the world. To do so, we need to alter our way of thinking and find a way to come together. It is only when we come together that we are truly the body of Christ. It is as a collection of members that we accomplish the works of apostles, prophets, teachers and healers. It is only when we work together that the whole Christian story can be told.

So, how will we tell this story in the year that lies ahead? What New Year's Resolutions will we make as the body of Christ in our church today, and what will we do to show that our commitment is more than skin deep? This is the year to:

- Show real **warmth** as we welcome visitors to our congregation, and work to strengthen the bonds of Christian community among us.
- Demand **authenticity** in our Christian education, congregational care and personal interaction, so that we won't settle for pat answers to difficult questions.
- Encourage **passion** in our worship and mission work, so that everyone will feel our commitment to the work of our gracious and powerful God.
- Focus on **Jesus** in every aspect of our church's life, so that we will be able to deepen our relationship with the One who is our Lord and our Savior.

Warmth, Authenticity, Passion and **Jesus**. These are the four key characteristics of a healthy church, and they are the four qualities that will be decisive for the vitality of the body of Christ in 2020 and in the years to come.

See you Sunday!
Pastor Paul

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dents that will attend camps in 2020 attend the same week. In an effort to do this we are partnering with other UMC churches for specific weeks at each camp. I am planning to attend the following dates and hoping to bring along a couple of camp counselors for the kids at Solid Rock. Camp Lakewood will be June 21-25, which is for students K-6th grade. Camp Adventure will be July 12-17, which is for students 6-8th grades. Epworth Forest Camp will be July 5-10, which is for 9-12th grades. These are the camp dates which our students are en-

couraged to attend, but if these do not work for you please feel free to pick a different week.

The Solid Rock Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year. The deadline to submit your application is March 20. No late applications will be accepted. Applications can be picked up in the church office or may be downloaded from the church website. Students currently receiving a scholarship need to reapply.

What Is Lent All About and Why Is It Important?

Have you ever wondered what people are talking about when they say they're giving something up for Lent? Do you feel like you understand what Lent is and how it relates to Easter?

Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. Lent is often referred to as a time of preparation and an opportunity to go deeper with God. This means that it's a time for personal reflection that prepares people's hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter.



What Are the Key Days During Lent?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. You may have noticed people with a smudged, black cross on their foreheads. Those are ashes from the Ash Wednesday service. Ashes symbolize grief for the things we've done wrong and the resulting division of imperfect people from a perfect God.

Maundy Thursday is the day before Good Friday. It commemorates the night before Jesus died when He shared the Passover meal with His closest friends and followers.

Good Friday is the day Christians remember Jesus' death. The "Good" reflects how Jesus' death was a sacrifice on our behalf so we can receive God's forgiveness for our wrongs or sins.

Easter Sunday is the joyful celebration of Jesus rising from the dead to give us the opportunity of eternal life. While people still die, Jesus made the way for people to have a relationship with God in this life and to spend eternity with Him in heaven.

What Happens During Lent and Why?

The three main things people focus on during Lent are prayer, fasting (abstaining from something to reduce distractions and focus more on God) and giving or charity. Prayer during Lent focuses on our need for God's forgiveness. It's also about repenting, or turning away from our sins, and receiving God's mercy and love.

Fasting, or giving something up, is a very common thing people talk about during Lent. The idea is that giving up something that's a regular part of life, like eating dessert or scrolling through Facebook, can be a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. That time can also be replaced with more time connecting with God.

Giving money or doing something good for others is a way to respond to God's grace, generosity and love. For example, people may spend time volunteering or donate money they would normally use to buy something, like their morning coffee. It's important to note that doing these things can never make us earn or deserve Jesus' sacrifice or a relationship with God. People are flawed and will never be good enough for a perfect God. Only Jesus has the power to rescue us from ourselves. Jesus sacrificed Himself on Good Friday to bear the punishment of all our wrongdoings and offer us forgiveness. He was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday to give us an opportunity to have a relationship with God for eternity.

Spending time during Lent praying, fasting and giving can make Jesus' sacrifice on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter even more meaningful.

—Faith Eng, cru.org

In the image of love

While using play therapy with young cancer patients, social worker Amy Jandris-evits found that kids identify best with dolls that resemble them — yet doll diversity was rare.

As described in *Gather* magazine, she

launched a line called "A Doll Like Me" that customizes dolls not only to "a child's ethnicity, gender, hair color and interests, but also their physical characteristics such as clefts, birthmarks, scars and limb differences." She



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adds, "It is more than just a doll to a child; it is a representation of the child who owns it." So far, Jandrisevits has made 300+ dolls for kids worldwide — a project she considers to be a ministry.

Dolls representing vast human differences are a profound reminder that God infused the world with variety and pronounced it good. Just as each custom-made doll is made in the image of the child who will adopt and love it, we're made in the image of God, who claims us as his beloved children forever.

True prayer

How often do we mouth words and phrases without conscious thought? True prayer is more than that. Prayer involves a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. I cannot pray just by saying words that are not my thoughts and longings. Prayer is a conversation with God who knows me better than I know myself. It is a coming to God in adoration, in humility, in trust, and in complete confidence because God IS God and God loves ME.

—Mary W. Geham

A Prayer for Resting in God's Love

God of Goodness, I come into your presence so aware of my human frailty and yet overwhelmed by your love for me.
I thank you that there is no human experience that I might walk through where your love cannot reach me. If I climb the highest mountain you are there and yet if I find myself in the darkest valley of my life, you are there.
Teach me today to love you more.
Help me to rest in that love that asks nothing more than the simple trusting heart of a child.



- Author Unknown

